



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
September 19, 2014



DATE: 09/10/2014

North District (Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Meade & Ziebach)

Reporting Officer: DCOS Apland, WCO's Eastman, Mutschler, Fees & Hein

Fishing Report:

Lawrence County –Fishing activity has slowed down, but the fishing success is good, most Hills lakes getting the large fall stockings before ice.

Butte County – Anglers are having some success catching Walleye in water depths of 5' to 15' the bite has slowed down the last couple weeks. A few walleye are also being caught on crank baits. Anglers please remember that there is a slot and only one Walleye over 18" may be kept per person. Also, Walleye between 15" to 18" cannot be kept. Boaters please remember to properly drain the boat before leaving the launch areas. Help us keep the aquatic nuisance out of our lakes!

Perkins County – Fishing is slowing down, but anglers are still catching a few walleye and crappies. Once the water cools off some the fall bite should begin.

Meade County – Activity has been slow. Fishing should pick up as the temperatures reduce.

Currently there is no access to Howes corner lakes due to the closure of Hwy 73. Construction reports suggest another few weeks until Hwy 73 is reopened.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

Most fishing has slowed drastically due to summer heat and other activities. Anglers are still having luck first thing in the morning or late evening out at Durkee off the dock. Hwy 73 is closed at Howes corner for repairs. Fishing is not accessible during this time. Glad Valley dam has been repaired and back in working order.

Ziebach – Anglers reports have been limited in recent weeks. It's always important to pay special attention to deeded land vs. tribal land in relation to having the correct license.

Glad Valley dam has been repaired and angler reports suggest a healthy perch population.

Hunting Report:

Archery Antelope and dove seasons are under way. Ground surveys are reporting good number of both antelope and doves.

Archery elk season is in full swing. With cooler temperatures upon us, hunters should see an increase in bull activity.

Prairie unit 9 and 15 Elk hunters are reminded they are required to acquire permission from landowners prior to the hunt, as these are private land hunts only.

Pheasant broods in Perkins County are looking promising for this year's upcoming season.

Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

Things to Remember:

- HuntSAFE in Spearfish Sept. 22nd-25th. Please sign up on line.

- Dove hunters are required to harvest doves in flight and 50yrd from the road.
- Archery hunters should review recent regulation updates before entering the field.

DATE: 09/016/2014

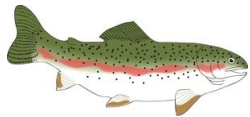
Central District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

**Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen
DCOS McCormick**

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Black Hills area lakes and streams:



Anglers are catching a few decent trout and some crappies size of hand on Sheridan Lake. Fish are mainly being caught on worms and some anglers catching on salmon eggs. Anglers are still catching trout from shore on Pactola and on Canyon Lake but it has slowed down a bit more. Boat anglers seem to still be having the best luck.

Western Prairie Lake and dams:



There are a few crappies being caught from shore at Curlew Lake. Surveys were conducted on New Wall Dam and New Underwood Dam. Lots of catchable largemouth bass were detected at New Wall Dam. The fish kill did not affect New Underwood Dam that much, lots of largemouth bass detected during the survey. There is still a good population of bluegills in the lake also. Fishing should be picking up with the cooler weather.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each lake.

We encourage all anglers to read the 2014 Fishing Handbook for regulations.



Wildlife:

Doves are still in the area. Remember that dove season has specific regulations, so please review them prior to going out. Archery antelope season is in progress as well. There are few archery antelope hunters out right now. Good time to target water holes before the rut starts. Grouse season starts this weekend September 20, 2014.

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying antelope, turkey and deer in the Black hills. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH DRIER WEATHER/GRASS BRINGS HIGHER FIRE DANGER. PEOPLE RESPECTFUL ON PUBLIC AREAS WITH THE FALL HUNTING SEASON APPROACHING.

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Date: 9/3/2014**County: Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson****Reporting Officer: WCO Tom Beck****Fishing Activity:****Nothing new to report****Hunting Report:**

Small Game: The mourning dove opener was a bit soggy in this country as it rained all afternoon. There were lots of doves and very few hunters who took advantage of them. It appears the doves may stay awhile, or at least until we get a cool spell so there should be some good hunting the next few days.

Big Game: Some elk have finally shown in the corn fields on the eastern side of Bennett County. A nice bull was harvested on the 1st. I have seen several nice bulls so this may be a good time to come if you have a tag for this season. It is hit and miss though as the elk can disappear into the corn fields very quickly. The deer are really spread out and while I'm not seeing many, I'm not getting any more reports of dead ones either. There are lots of corn and sunflower fields for them to hide in also so it may be a tough hunt this year unless the crops are harvested by deer season. I have seen a couple of different bunches of antelope recently so a few more are starting to wander out of the sandhills. I've seen a few small buck antelope, but not any of the big ones that sometimes show from the sandhill region. Considering how green it is, they may take a little while to show this year. We are presently doing our doe/fawn deer counts, doe/kid antelope counts, turkey brood counts, and elk cow/calf counts so you may see me stopped along the roads glued to a pair of binoculars this month.

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Small Game: We still have quite a few mourning doves in the area. I have been pleasantly surprised seeing all of them as I expected them to head south. At this time it looks like there will be enough around for good hunting when the season opens. I continue to see grouse and pheasant broods. The grouse broods are smaller than normal though and the pheasant broods are spotty. Where there is cover and CRP, there are birds. Where the cover isn't as good, the birds have not started to come back. If you are a cottontail rabbit hunter, this year looks like a great year. I'm seeing lots of cottontails on the roads.

Land Report -- The walk in hunting books should be coming out in a month or so. You will see some additions and some deletions for this area. Basically we lost a couple thousand acres of access this year. Some was because of land ownership changes while other losses were the result of hunters not appreciating what they had. It only takes a few incidents to ruin it for everyone and result in land closures. I cannot say enough times that hunters need to police themselves. If you see someone driving on walk in areas, or using the walk in areas to access private lands where they do not have permission, please let us know. Your call may insure having a place to hunt in the future.

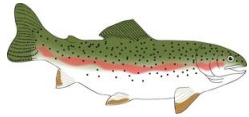
County: West Custer/West Pennington

Date: 9/6/2014

County: West Custer/West Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert

Fishing:



Trout fishing has been excellent with the colder weather. Some very nice trout are being picked up lately. Remember only 1 trout over 14" in the Black Hills trout management area.

Big Game: Archery Elk is in full swing. Hunters have been finding herds in the Parmalee, Ditch Creek and Boles Canyon areas. There are some excellent bulls out there and hunters are having good success.

Remember the 10pm curfew when locating animals with a spotlight.

Small Game: Dove hunters did well on Monday. Remember when hunting doves you have your migratory bird certification, a plug in the gun and be more than 50 yards off the road. Other issues I ran into were littering and plumage requirements. If you clean doves remember you need to keep plumage for transportation requirements, and pick a good spot to clean birds. The sporting and non-sporting public alike hates seeing rotten Dove carcasses on the road or in the parking areas. Pick it up and dispose of it properly.

District Report: If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds.

If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Pennington County - West

Date: District Report: Hill City

Reporting Officer: 8/26/2014

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Big Game: Buck antelope are starting to gather their harems for the fall rut already, Last few days have felt like fall with the cooler temperatures, I have heard a couple of bugles in the early mornings, in just a few weeks the bull elk will be screaming like crazy. Hard to get a good look at the deer and antelope with the amazing amount of sweet clover covering the landscape, lots of cover to hide the little ones should make for good survival.

Date: 9/3/2014

County: Fall River

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:



Harvest from area waters remains constant. Coldbrook and Cottonwood Reservoirs were recently stocked. This should provide some decent opportunity to catch some trout. Angostura remains a little slower - but some nice fish are being harvested daily.

Hunting Report:



Small Game: Dove season opened this last weekend. Hunters appeared to be having a lot of success. Birds were harvested near grain fields as well as out in the grasslands. Those wishing to participate in dove hunting should remember that most years the doves head south after a week or so of cold evenings. If you are going to give it a try – the sooner the better.

District Report:

This will probably be the last big “boating and water recreation weekend” of the summer. Many folks seem to put the boats away for the summer and prepare for fall events with school activities and hunting seasons. This would be a good time for those thinking about hunting this fall to review the current regulations and license requirements. It is also a great time to review the hunting handbook and get familiar with the season dates and special regulations that may have changed this year.

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don’t hesitate to call the TIP’s Hotline or the local Sheriff’s Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport

Reporting Officer: DJ Schroeder

District Report:

Water levels are dropping a little at Angostura. Boaters should start watching for the sandbars and trees that are getting a little closer to the props.

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